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(DERBYSHIRE).



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON

**HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITIONS of the URBAN
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER**

FOR THE YEAR

1951

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FOR THE YEAR

1951

BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1951

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Dale Close, 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

Deputy Medical Officer (part-time) :

DR. J. B. MCKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Tel. No. Bolsover 255 and 408
(Council Offices).

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district. On the whole the year has been a healthy one, the number of notifications of infectious diseases being low.

The housing situation is still the most serious problem from a public health point of view, although there does appear to be a slight easing of the situation. Unfortunately, in Bolsover as in other districts, there are a considerable number of people living in old and dilapidated houses and owing to the shortage of dwellings it is extremely difficult to re-house them even if the property is condemned. I understand the Council are considering allocating a percentage of new houses for people living under some of the worst conditions and this would certainly help.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support which they have given me throughout the year and also the staff and Mr. Walton for their ready co-operation and invaluable help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

“ Dale Close,”
100 Chesterfield Rd. South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	.. .. .	.. 4,526
Population (census, 1931)	.. .. .	.. 11,811
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1951	..	10,750
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	.. ..	3,019
Rateable Value, 1951	.. .. .	£51,601
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1951	..	£194-0-1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. Fruit is grown in the district in large quantities. The general standard of social condition shows little change from previous years.

SCABIES.

After presenting a very real problem during the war years, due to overcrowding and the movement of the population, this disease appears to have ceased to be a matter of serious concern in this district. Only 6 cases were treated at the Poolsbrook Centre, 3 adults and 3 children.

VERMINOUS HEADS.

It has not been found necessary to send any children to the Centre for treatment.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births.—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	184	86	98	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population 17.5 (crude)
Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Corrected birth rate 18.0.				
Still Births	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 20.7.

DEATHS.

	Total	Males	Females	
	105	55	50	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.7 (crude).

Death rate corrected by comparability factor 11.4.

There have not been any deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	37.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	38.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

DEATHS FROM :—

Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Cancer (all ages)	15
Influenza	3
Tuberculosis	3
Heart Disease	50
Pneumonia	4
Congenital Malformations	3
Road Traffic Accidents	—
Diabetes	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	11

The Cancer death rate for England and Wales has somewhat increased, but this is to be expected in a population with so many elderly people in it.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1951.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population						Rate per 1,000 Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	
England and Wales	15.5	0.36	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.38	29.6
126 County Boroughs and great Towns including London ..	17.3	0.45	13.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.36	33.9
148 Smaller Towns (1931 ad- justed) Population 25,000—									
50,000	16.7	0.38	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.38	27.6
London	17.8	0.37	13.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.23	26.4
Bolsover U.D.	18.0	0.37	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	37.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Enteric group of organisms ..	—	—	—
Brucella Abortus	—	—	—
C. diphtheriae	—	8	8
Vincent's Angina-Organisms ..	—	4	4
Haemolytic Streptococci	3	12	15
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ..	—	1	1
*Water	1	9	10
*Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test ..	2	19	21

MILK :—

Methylene Blue	—	1	1
*Phosphatase Test	—	1	1
*Turbidity Test	—	—	—
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test—	2	63	65
Clinical Specimens	—	—	—
Totals ..	8	118	126

*Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities in the Area.

When the National Health Act came into force the ambulance service was taken over by the County Council. Chesterfield is now the central depot. (Telephone No. 4141).

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

All these clinics are under the control of the County Council. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every week on a Wednesday afternoon in Bolsover.

A School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments is held fortnightly on a Saturday in the same place.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Tuesday and Friday, from 10 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Venereal Clinics.

Derby Royal Infirmary :—

Males— Monday, 6 to 8 p.m.
 Tuesday, 10-30 to 12 noon.
 Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m.
 Saturday, 10-30 to 12 noon.

Females— Monday, 3 to 5 p.m.
 Thursday, 10-30 to 12 and 6 to 8 p.m.

Children— Friday, 10-30 to 11 a.m.

Chesterfield Royal Hospital—

Males— Friday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.
 Tuesday, 5 to 6-45 p.m.

Females— Tuesday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.
 Friday, 5 to 6-30 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield Bolsover and Clowne Water Board and is satisfactory in quality.

14 bacteriological samples were taken during the year after chlorination and all were satisfactory. Of these 12 taken by the Water Board and 2 by the were local authority. No samples of the raw water were analysed.

All 3019 houses are supplied direct from the town's mains.

The water is softened and chlorinated before use and 0.15 parts per million of chlorine is added. The chlorinating plant is installed at the Hillstown Water Tower.

The water is not liable to plumbo solvent action.

During the year the then Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board took over the Clowne supply and assumed the new title of Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board.

There is a large amount of water at Manton Colliery but unfortunately the N.C.B. want a considerable quantity for their own use, and were unable to grant an adequate supply to Clowne R.D. The water is hard, but of excellent quality.

This merger should be beneficial to both parties, although of course it is a fact that the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board had not an unlimited supply themselves. Extra water is drawn from the Medan Valley Water Company so that in a dry summer the position might be difficult.

The following is a bacteriological analysis taken after chlorination.

Temperature on arrival	16°C.
No. of Colonies per ml. developing on Agar in :	
3 days at 22°C.	0
48 hours at 37°C.	0

B. Coli Test (MacConkey's Bile Salt Lactose Broth)

Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 ml.	0
--	---

Free Chlorine parts per million.. .. none.

Remarks—Satisfactory.

Closet Conversions.

26 pail closets at Whaley Common were converted to water closets during the year following the reconditioning of the disposal works for this hamlet. A small disposal works is being constructed at Whaley Village and when this is completed a further 10 pail closets will be converted there.

The majority of the remaining houses in the district not served by public sewers are isolated cottages, farms, etc., often situated in most inaccessible and widely scattered positions.

There are 3,019 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system.

Pail closets and Elsan Closets ..	78
Privies	9
Cesspools	33

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Since alterations have been completed to the main Bolsover Works they are now able to take the sewage from Carr Vale, but the pumps have not yet been installed. As mentioned in previous reports, owing to subsidence the Carr Vale Works were useless.

The reconditioning of the derelict sewage works at Whaley Common has now been completed and as a result 26 houses in this area are connected to the water carriage system.

In Whaley Village a small sewage disposal works is being constructed but there has been a delay owing to difficulty in obtaining pipes. Cesspools overflowing into the stream have been a nuisance and a danger for many years to the health of the inhabitants of Whaley Village. The construction of a small disposal works will be of great benefit to this village.

HOUSING.

60 new houses were erected by the Bolsover Council and 8 by private enterprise, a total of 68, 22 more than in 1950. As already mentioned in the report the housing situation appears to be a little easier, although there is still a long way to go before it can be said that the back of the problem has been broken. There are still a considerable number of families living in substandard houses who will require re-housing in the near future.

The following 21 houses which are substandard and in a bad state, will have to be dealt with soon.

27 and 29 High Street, Bolsover.

4 Castle Lane, Bolsover.

1, 3, 5, 7 Springfields, Bolsover.

9 Springfields, Bolsover.

11 Cotton Street, Bolsover.

5, 7, 9 and 11 Hill Top, Bolsover.

59 Hill Top, Bolsover.

50 and 52 Hill Top, Bolsover.

14 High Street, Bolsover.

29, 31, 33 Old Hill, Bolsover.

Ambergrove Cottage, Church Road, Stanfree.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the district, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

1—**Inspections** for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	13	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	69	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises)	8	17	2	—
Total	36	99	7	—

2.—Cases in which **Defects** were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of prosecutions instituted.
	Found	Remed'd	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	1	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences ..					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	—	—	—	—	—
	7	7	1	1	nil

3.—Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Lace, lace curtains and nets ..	4	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Meat and Other Foods.

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Urgent Sanitary Requirements.

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.

National Assistance Act.

No person was removed compulsorily to hospital under Section 47 of this Act.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951

Notifiable Disease.	Number of cases notified													Total cases rem'd to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—years															
	At all Ages	Underl	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up			
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	1	..	..	..	5	5	11	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	27	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	1	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4	10	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	15	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dysentery ..	167	6	22	18	23	26	69	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	21	3	2	6	2	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	243	10	25	24	31	36	84	4	3	5	2	8	11	26	7	7

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

149 children were immunised for the first time and a large number who had already been immunised received boosting doses.

Our record in diphtheria is now such that we must guard it zealously. 1951 was the third year in succession when this deadly disease was absent from the child population. Human memory is notoriously short and in its continuing absence we are apt to forget the distress and disability which diphtheria can cause. It is still near us. It is only waiting for us to drop our defences to attack with probably fatal consequences. The immunity of the population against diphtheria must be maintained at the highest possible level and I appeal to every one to make the fullest use of this service.

Poliomyelitis.

For the first time for many years a definite case was notified and removed to hospital. The family had been staying in Durham for a few weeks and the child, a boy of 5 years, had obviously become infected there. It is rather extraordinary that with outbreaks occurring in adjoining districts during the past six years Bolsover has escaped until this year.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 27 cases were notified, of these 24 were removed to hospital. The disease was mild in character, it was spread by direct infection in the schools. There were no deaths. When isolation can be adequately carried out cases are best left at home but this is not possible if the house is overcrowded or if there are other children.

Measles.

167 cases occurred mostly in children between 5 and 10 years of age. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

21 notifications were received.

Food Poisoning.

No notifications were received. Three suspected cases however were sent into hospital, one, a girl of 5 years who was subsequently found to be suffering from tabes mesenterica and the others, two babies aged 5 and 6 months, were cases of difficult feeding.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

One notification was received in March. No source of infection could be found despite the fact that the child, aged 2½ years, had not been away from home.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..								
1 ..								
5 ..								
10 ..				1				
15 ..			1					
20 ..	1				1			
25 ..		1						
35 ..	1							
45 ..	2	1						
55 ..				1	1		1	
65 and upwards								
Totals	4	2	1	2	1	1	—	1

The phthisis death rate is 0.18 for 1,000 of population.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING

SUPERINTENDENT

For the year ended 31st December, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1951.

There was a very welcome increase in the number of houses completed by the local authority, 60 being erected compared with the previous year's total of 42. Private individuals completed 8 houses compared with 4 for 1950, and the overall increase amounted to almost 50%.

There still remains a shortage of houses available for letting and the building of new houses remains one of the most pressing responsibilities of the Council. There are still many young married couples with small children, living in rooms and the rehousing of these families continues to be of prime importance. These small children represent the future generation of this country and it is most desirable that they grow up in healthy and tranquil surroundings, away from the overcrowding and mental strain which are almost inseparable from a life spent in rooms.

In addition, there are the claims of those families occupying old and insanitary houses in the district. Many of these houses have been unfit for human habitation for a good number of years and their condition is deteriorating each year. The clearance of some of the worst houses cannot be delayed much longer and it is felt that many of the tenants of these houses are living in more intolerable surroundings than some of the sub-tenants in modern dwellings.

A disturbing feature of the housing position is the ever increasing cost of erection of new houses. Costs have continued to rise since the end of the war and the smaller and less elaborate houses which Councils now have to build are

costing as much as the larger houses erected not so long ago.

The reduction in sizes to counteract increased costs is not in itself a satisfactory and permanent solution and we might eventually be faced with the danger of families being virtually compelled to live under poor conditions because of their inability to afford the rent of a more healthy and modern house.

It is of vital importance to the health and well-being of this country that building costs should be kept as low as humanly possible, and that the rent of a new house should not become beyond the means of the ordinary working man.

A considerable amount of repair work to dwelling houses was again carried out during the year, but it was noticeable that increased repair costs, and the continued control of rents at their pre-war level, resulted in property owners doing their utmost to economise on maintenance and resorting to the use of lower quality fittings, etc. An increasing number of cases occurred where owners replaced cooking ranges by the cheapest and least attractive type available, and defective wooden floors have been replaced by concrete floors because of the lower maintenance cost.

During 1951 the Whaley Common sewerage scheme was completed and the pail closets serving the houses were replaced by water closets. A scheme for Whaley Village was approved by the Council, but very little progress could be made due to the delay in obtaining reinforced concrete tubes for the new sewer.

New cesspool emptying equipment was purchased and put into operation and there was a marked improvement in the efficiency of the service provided.

I sincerely desire to thank you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your unfailing support in all measures taken for the health of the community, and I am also greatly indebted to my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

*Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.
May, 1952.

General Inspection of the Area.

Tables showing inspections, etc., undertaken during the year, 1951.

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects	..	573
Revisits to houses	.. .. .	594
Visits re Water Supply	.. .. .	6
Visits to infectious disease cases	.. .. .	59
Verminous premises	.. .. .	8
Milk distributors	.. .. .	107
Bakehouses	.. .. .	16
Fried Fish Shops	.. .. .	28
Other Food Preparing Premises	.. .. .	89
Food Shops	.. .. .	74
Market Stalls	.. .. .	86
Ice Cream Premises	.. .. .	57
Inns and other Public Buildings	.. .. .	14
Factories..	.. .. .	99
Knackers Yard	.. .. .	39
Schools	.. .. .	8
Controlled Refuse Tips..	.. .. .	68
Colliery Spoil Banks	.. .. .	10
re Keeping of Animals	.. .. .	16
Shops Act	.. .. .	51
Petroleum Licensing	.. .. .	31
Rodent Control Measures	.. .. .	268
Drainage Work	.. .. .	198
to Public Baths	.. .. .	4
Number of miscellaneous visits	.. .. .	21
Interviews with owners and contractors, etc.	.. .. .	173
		<hr/> 2697 <hr/>

Housing and Public Health Act Defects.

The following statement shows the defects found and remedied, other than those at Council owned houses.

Defects in connection with :—

	Found	Remedied
House Roofs	72	68
Chimney Stacks	13	10
Eaves Gutters	82	74
Rain Water Pipes	41	37
Pointing and brickwork of walls	38	36
Yard Paving	12	10
Waste Pipes	16	15
Wall Plaster	74	70
Ceiling plaster	42	41
Windows and sash cords ..	39	36
Doors	12	10
Floors	38	34
Staircases	7	6
Cooking Ranges	56	54
Firegrates	28	25
Sinks	43	40
Washing Coppers	29	24
Rising and Penetrating dampness	86	75
Coal Stores	4	3
Verminous Premises	2	2
Dirty Houses	4	4
Accumulations	2	2
Drains	46	46
Inspection Chambers	4	2
Closet Pedestals	36	34
Closet Flushing Cisterns ..	24	24
Closet Structures	21	19
Closet Pails	5	5
Urinals	2	1
Dilapidated Dustbins ..	131	127
Choked Drains	211	211
	<hr/> 1220	<hr/> 1145

In connection with the foregoing defects 289 informal notices and 31 statutory notices were served on owners or occupiers.

During the previous year legal proceedings were taken against one owner under the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of nuisances at seven houses, and nuisance orders were made in each case. The orders were not complied with and during 1951 further proceedings were taken against the owner. The court imposed a fine, allowed a further period of three months for compliance with the orders and provided for a daily penalty in case of default. Towards the end of the year a contractor commenced to carry out the necessary repairs on behalf of the owner.

Of the statutory notices served, 19 were in respect of defective dustbins and 12 required the abatement of nuisances at dwelling houses. Two dustbins were supplied in default of legal notice.

One owner successfully appealed against a notice under Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936, requiring provision of a dustbin. A further notice was subsequently served on the occupier of the house and this was complied with.

HOUSING.

During 1951, 60 permanent houses were erected by the Council and 8 were built by private individuals ; the total represents a very welcome increase of 22 compared with last year's figure. The Council's allocation for 1951, was supplemented by 24 additional houses for miners.

Reports for recent years have pointed out the difficulties arising from the continued occupation of unfit houses. This problem is aggravated by the fact that legislation dealing with unfit houses was framed in the 1930's when conditions were very different from the present day. The Housing Acts provide for the demolition of unfit houses and the Council's powers to secure repair, and thus extend the occupation of such houses, are very limited.

The owner of an old and unfit house is naturally most reluctant to incur other than minor expense on property with so limited a life, and even though he may have received a most handsome return on his original outlay and pursued a policy of doing the minimum amount of maintenance, his

present position is safeguarded by the "reasonable expense" provisions of the Housing Act.

Every effort is being made to keep these houses free from dampness, but in extreme cases the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act 1936, must be invoked. During 1951, six houses were dealt with under these provisions, three houses were subject to Demolition Orders (57 and 59, Limekiln Fields, Bolsover, and "Hilldene," Shuttlewood Road, Bolsover), one house (7a, Market Place, Bolsover) was subject to a Closing Order and undertakings were accepted in respect of the two remaining houses (71, High Street, Bolsover, and 2, Castle Lane, Bolsover). In all six cases the families were re-housed by the local authority. The owners of the latter two houses subsequently submitted proposals for thorough repair and modernisation of the houses, but the works were not commenced until after the end of the year.

The continued occupation of the old houses has allowed steady progress to be made in rehousing overcrowded and sub-tenant families, but it is thought that the time is approaching when serious consideration will have to be given to the commencement of a slum clearance programme. I feel that many of the families living in unfit houses are housed under less satisfactory conditions than families living as sub-tenants in modern dwellings.

We still have a long road to travel before we reach the ultimate goal of a decent and healthy house for every family and the building of as many new houses as possible remains of paramount importance.

During recent years there has been a marked tendency for property owners to dispose of their houses, due to higher taxation and a reduction in profits resulting from greatly increased maintenance costs without any compensating increase in income from rents. In many cases sitting tenants have been able to purchase their houses at very fair prices and it is felt that the desire to be an owner occupier is a very admirable trait. Many of these new property owners have carried out improvements to their houses and provided modern fittings and services which they would never have secured as a tenant under present conditions. There is however, a most unpleasant feature of this tendency. During the last few years the Council has re-housed, under the normal letting programme, quite a number of families living in sub-standard property, and many of these houses

have been sold with vacant possession at ridiculously high prices. It is to be expected that a property owner will elect to sell his house with vacant possession rather than let it at a controlled pre-war rent, but despite several public statements by the Council advising intending purchasers to obtain information from the officers of the authority, cases still occur where houses of little or no value change hands for as much as £300—£400. The purchasers are often young married couples who realise they have a long time to wait before being offered the tenancy of a Council house. Unfortunately, many of these sub-standard houses are situated in clearance areas due to be dealt with, I hope, in the not so distant future. The local authority will thus be faced with the unpleasant task of compelling persons to effect demolition of houses which have been purchased so recently and at so great a cost.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During 1951 there was an increase in the number of caravans used for human habitation.

Four of the caravans are situated on individual sites and planning permission was granted for a period of twelve months in each case; licences under the Public Health Act being given for the same period. A further site containing four caravans was developed during 1951 but planning permission had not been obtained at the end of the year.

The increased use of caravans arises from the shortage of housing accommodation, but I feel that a caravan, however well equipped it might be, fails to provide a satisfactory home and that its use should be brought to an end as soon as the housing position allows.

The stationing of individual caravans on widely scattered sites and the granting of planning permission for very limited periods, makes it more difficult to secure a reasonable standard in relation to water supply, sanitation and other essential services. A central site with all services provided, and catering for a larger number of caravans, would present less of a problem; and by developing a suitable site the Council would thus place itself in a more advantageous position for removing the caravans immediately more houses were available.

During the present housing shortage the use of caravans must be tolerated, but it is felt that local authorities have a

responsibility to guide the initiative of the people who prefer to live in caravans rather than as sub-tenants in houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Particulars will be found in the Medical Officer's report of the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year ; 59 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred, 18 rooms and 21 books being disinfected.

During 1951 there was an increase in the percentage of scarlet fever cases removed to isolation hospitals, compared with figures for the previous year ; 24 out of 27 cases as against 27 out of 45. The cases nursed at home were satisfactorily isolated and no secondary cases occurred.

The Council's disinfecting station continued to carry out disinfection of blankets, etc., used by the County Ambulance Service for removal of infectious cases to hospital.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfestation of two privately owned houses was carried out during the year.

D.D.T. powder, Gammexane dust, liquid disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution continued to be available to householders free of charge.

WATER SUPPLY.

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board. Two samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and both were found to be fit for drinking purposes.

PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD.

During 1951, 215 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food and 242 to shops, stalls, etc., used for the sale of articles of food.

32 premises were used for the preparation of food, including 2 bakehouses and 10 fish frying establishments.

There were no serious contraventions of the byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, but for the most part the premises used for the sale of food

comprise house-shops with very limited accommodation, and storage capacity presents a problem.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKER'S YARD.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all five cases licences were renewed for one year.

None is in use at the present time except for the private slaughter of pigs.

39 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard. The business was conducted in a satisfactory manner and records were kept as required by the Council's bye-laws.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The whole of the meat in the district is drawn from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in Chesterfield where a thorough system of meat inspection is in operation.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

At the end of 1951, 18 persons held licenses to slaughter animals.

2 of the licences were granted during the year, both being renewals.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amount of unsound food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Luncheon meat, etc.	..	28 tins.
Cooked Ham	.. ..	11 tins (81 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lbs.)
Sausages	.. ..	101-lbs.
Fish products	.. ..	2 tins.
Vegetables	.. ..	85 tins.
Fruit	.. ..	82 tins.
Soup	.. ..	31 tins.
Tomatoes and Tomato Juice		145 tins.
Milk	.. ..	31 tins.
Bacon	.. ..	4-lbs.
Cake	.. ..	75-lbs.

All the above were voluntarily surrendered at the time of inspection.

There was a substantial increase in the amount of unsound food condemned as unfit for human consumption. The increase was particularly marked in the case of canned tomatoes and cooked ham. The majority of these canned hams were imported from Central European countries and they displayed evidence of imperfect canning and often puncture by nails during packing or transport. It was noticeable that there was a much lower percentage of unsound food among the products of the more reputable canning firms, and one wonders whether the trade's eagerness to supply almost forgotten delicacies, such as cooked ham and peeled tomatoes, resulted in the importation of foods from less reliable sources.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

At the end of 1951, there were 19 dairy farmers in the district, 11 being wholesale producers and 8 retailing their product locally. Of the 19 dairy farmers, 4 were producing Tuberculin Tested milk, though only one was retailing his product locally.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

The registrations and licences granted as at 31st Dec., 1951, were as follows :—

Registered distributors of milk	..	..	16
Licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk			11
Licensed dealers in Accredited milk	..	..	2
Licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	..		11
Licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	..	..	7

Supplementary licences to deal in Pastuerised milk and Tuberculin Tested milk were granted to a local Co-operative Society.

During recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of dairy farmers retailing their milk locally, and a consequent increase in the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milks.

Special designated milks now form the bulk of the milk consumed in this district, and it is felt that there is an early possibility of Bolsover and certain surrounding districts becoming a "specified area" in which retail sales will be limited to special designated milks ; this ultimate objective has been assisted by the recent opening of dairy premises in Chesterfield by a large company serving this area.

MILK SAMPLING.

Samples of milk for biological examination continued to be taken throughout the year and these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Derby. Samples were obtained from all dairy farms producing other than Tuberculin Tested milk and quarterly examination of each supply was carried out.

63 samples were taken during the year, 2 being positive and 61 negative.

One of the positive samples was obtained from the herd of a local producer retailer, but on receipt of the laboratory's report the Veterinary Officer was able, by clinical examination, to trace one cow suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, and diversion of the milk supply for heat treatment was therefore not necessary. The animal was slaughtered and a further bulk sample from the herd was certified non-tuberculous.

The other positive sample was from a producer wholesaler, whose milk normally undergoes pasteurisation. In this case individual samples had to be taken before the offending animal could be traced. One cow suffering from tuberculosis of the udder was slaughtered and a further bulk sample was certified non-tuberculous.

ICE CREAM.

There are three premises at which ice cream is manufactured and 18 premises from which ice cream is sold.

21 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	..	..	..	17
Grade 2	..	..	..	2
Grade 3	..	..	..	—
Grade 4	..	..	..	2

For the second successive year over 90% of the samples submitted were found to be in the satisfactory Grades 1 or 2, and in 1951 a slightly higher percentage were in Grade 1.

The results for individual manufacturers were as follows :

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Manufacturer A	4	1	—	2	7
Manufacturer B	5	—	—	—	5
Manufacturer C	8	1	—	—	9

SWIMMING BATHS.

Eight samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year, from the Public Baths in Castle Lane, Bolsover, samples being taken from the inlet and outlet ends of the bath.

Only one of the results was slightly below standard and the Bacteriologist reported on the remaining samples that the filtration and chlorination process was highly satisfactory at the time when the samples were taken, as also was the hygienic quality of the water supplied to the swimming bath.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

51 visits were paid to premises regarding closing hours, sanitary conveniences and the employment of young persons.

PETROLEUM LICENSING.

31 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

At the end of 1951, 21 licences were in force.

RODENT CONTROL.

A total of 268 visits and inspections were made in connection with rodent control measures.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage works are regularly examined and any infestation is immediately treated. Treatment of the public sewers was carried out on two occasions.

Methods of treatment were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and no undue presence of rats and mice was noticed. No legal proceedings were taken during 1951 under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND PRIVIES.

Last year I reported the preparation of schemes for the provision of an improved sewage disposal works at Whaley Common, and for the laying of new sewers and construction of a disposal works at Whaley Village.

The existing septic tank and filter which treated sink waste drainage from the houses at Whaley Common was old and obsolete. During 1951, the disposal works were improved, the existing tank was altered and retained in use, new inlets and outlets were provided, the capacity of the filter was increased and new tipping gear was installed. The old humus tank was enlarged and a new effluent drain was provided.

On completion of the improvement to the disposal works, the conversion of 26 pail closets serving the Whaley Common houses was carried out and the work was completed before the end of the year ; the Council contributing 50% of the cost in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The scheme for Whaley Village provides for the laying of 270 yards of 6-in. sewer and the construction of a new disposal works comprising inlet chamber, septic tank, filter with automatic tipping gear, small humus tank and effluent drain to the adjacent stream. The new sewer will be of reinforced concrete tubes with flexible joints as a precaution against damage by mining subsidence, and the long delivery period on this type of tube has been responsible for the delay in commencing the Whaley Village scheme. Some progress has been made in the construction of the new disposal works and it is hoped that the scheme will be completed during the coming year.

The two schemes serving Whaley Common and Whaley Village will allow for the conversion of a total of 36 pail closets and privy middens and will result in the abolition

of a number of cesspools in Whaley Village. These cesspools were constructed many years ago before the provision of main water supply to the houses and are now quite inadequate in capacity and a frequent source of trouble. The completion of these schemes will provide modern sanitation to the two most populated areas not previously served by a public sewer.

The majority of the remaining houses in the district not served by public sewers are isolated cottages, farms, etc., often situated in most inaccessible and widely scattered positions.

There are, however, 27 houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood which, due to the contours of the ground, cannot be connected to the existing sewer serving the other houses in the road. A few of these houses have modern sanitary fittings draining to cesspools or septic tanks and filters, and the others have pail closets ; but it is felt that the houses are sufficiently grouped together to allow the provision of a new public sewer to serve most, if not all, of them.

In addition to the 26 conversions at Whaley Common, a waste water closet at No. 2, Town End, Bolsover was replaced by a pedestal water closet at the joint expense of the owner and the Council. In the paragraph relating to "Housing" reference was made to an undertaking signed by the owners of No. 2, Castle Lane, Bolsover. The owners subsequently submitted proposals for the thorough repair and modernisation of this house, including the replacement of the existing pail closet by a water closet. The Council agreed to make a grant of half the cost of the work, but the replacement was not carried out during 1951.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

LABOUR AND TRANSPORT.

10 men were employed on refuse collection and disposal, emptying pail closets, privies and cesspools and on collection and baling of waste paper.

The vehicles used comprised :—

1 12 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

1 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam (replaced 1st August 1951 by a new vehicle of the same capacity and make.)

1 Fordson tractor and trailer-drawn tank for cesspool emptying (this equipment was taken out of use during August 1951).

The Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter was employed full time on refuse collection duties, the Karrier Bantam being employed part time on refuse collection and also undertaking emptying of pail closets, privies and, for the latter part of the year, cesspools.

During the summer the new trailer mounted mud pump for cesspool emptying was received and thereafter the emptying of cesspools by the tractor and trailer tank was discontinued.

I commented last year on the inefficiency of the old cesspool emptying service carried out by the tractor and trailer tank, this tank being fitted with a hand operated lift pump quite incapable of effecting thorough emptying of the contents of the cesspools. The introduction of the trailer mounted mud pump effected a most marked improvement in the service, securing complete emptying of the contents and providing much pleasanter working conditions for the men undertaking the duty.

I should like, again, to pay tribute to the loyalty and co-operation of the public cleansing staff. The men perform a public health duty of the first importance, for which they receive little recognition and only low financial reward.

The public cleansing services in this country are highly organised and mechanised, requiring intelligent and able bodied men, and the frequent references to "dustmen" occupying the lowest rung on the social scale are, to say the least, unwarranted. The duty performed by the men is not a pleasant one and is taken for granted by the community as a whole ; it is only when things go wrong that they are noticed.

In this age when the "productive" worker is the kingpin of the community, it is perhaps some consolation to the public cleansing workmen to realise that they do not always receive the thanks or gratitude due to them for the simple reason that they perform their duties too well to attract public attention.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Every effort was made to carry out this service in the most efficient and economical manner and throughout the whole year a weekly collection was maintained. A great strain was placed on the collection service towards the end of the year by the inferior quality of "allowance" coal issued to certain colliery employees in the district.

The quantity of refuse to be removed rose alarmingly and shovelling up had to be undertaken at hundreds of houses. Fortunately, an improved quality coal was issued within a few weeks and the refuse yield returned to normal proportion.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping at the following tips :

New Byron Brick Works.

Limekiln Fields.

New Bolsover.

Most of the refuse collected has been disposed of at the Limekiln Fields tip and this tip is approaching completion.

During the year a considerable amount of soil from a building site outside the district was deposited on this tip for covering purposes.

During the latter part of the year the tractor was fitted with an earthmover blade and was used for levelling and spreading of soil on a portion of the Limekiln Fields tip. The equipment proved successful and the work was performed quite quickly and economically.

SALVAGE.

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1952).

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year and $81\frac{1}{4}$ tons were sold, this figure exceeding any previous annual total.

The workmen's bonus scheme remained in operation and the amount earned by the men during the financial year exceeded £93.

Total income from waste paper sales was £1,430/11/6 of this, £850 being profit.

I feel that I must comment on the fluctuation of the waste paper market.

It will be remembered that during the latter part of 1949, there was a super abundance of waste paper and this Council, in common with many other authorities, was compelled to discontinue paper salvage due to its inability to sell the paper collected.

During 1950, the consumption at the mills rose steadily until the supply of waste paper fell short of demand ; and prices offered for paper commenced to rise sharply. This Council recommenced waste paper salvage in December, 1950 having obtained a long term contract with a board mill. During the first half of 1951, prices rose further, reaching a point twice as high as those operating twelve months previously, waste paper became a most lucrative undertaking for both local authorities and waste paper merchants and total collections during 1951 were about one quarter of a million tons greater than the previous record year of 1942.

At the end of 1951 there were indications of a surplus of waste paper at the mills, prices commenced to fall and there were rumours of local authorities being requested to slow down their salvage activities to meet the reduced demands of the mills.

Prices have continued to fall during 1952 and are now (May '52) about half those in November last—restricted sales are again with us and waste paper salvage has once again become a precarious undertaking.

This is a most remarkable transformation from the position just over a year ago, when waste paper contests were being introduced with a fanfare of trumpets and the need to save every scrap of paper was being preached in a nationwide publicity campaign.

[I feel that most local authorities have no desire to make enormous profits on waste paper salvage, high prices are certain to have an inflationary influence on the cost of living ; neither can local authorities be expected to undertake waste paper collection if this cannot be self supporting and involves a charge on the general rate fund. All that is required is a regular outlet for waste paper at a price which makes this form of salvage an economic proposition.

Local authorities are now being called upon to modify and curtail their collection and disposal organisation to meet the lower demands of the mills, but to be ready to expand these services when the need arises.

Councils depend upon the ordinary shopkeeper and householder for their collections, and to subject these persons to the oscillating demands of the industry is likely to create the impression that the saving of waste paper is no longer necessary and thus lead to difficulty in expanding the service when required.

Segregation of tins at the Limklin Fieldstip was commenced at the end of 1951, an allowance of 30/- per ton being paid by the Joint Scrap Survey District Committee.

To the end of the financial year 4 tons 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. of tins had been collected and the allowance amounted to £7/9/7.

Salvage from 1st April, 1951 to 31st March, 1952—

	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper & cardboard	81	5	2	0	1426	1	6
Bonus						4	10 0
Textiles	1	1	0	0	19	10	0
Metals		17	2	0	7	15	3
Totals	83	4	0	0	£1457	16	9

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